



IN NUMBERS



6.5 million

people food insecure and
4 million at risk



6.3 million

people internally displaced



USD 90.4 million

funding gap against FAO's 2017
Humanitarian Response Plan

KEY MESSAGES

- **Some 6.5 million people are food insecure and a further 4 million are at risk** – twice as many as last year – due to asset depletion to maintain food consumption.
- **Within Syria, 6.3 million people are displaced, while 5.3 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.** The continuing crisis has led to new displacements in northeast Syria (Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates), as well as Hama, Aleppo and Idlib governorates.
- **Families' ability to cope is strained, leading them to reduce the number of meals per day and the amount of food consumed.**
- **People in besieged and hard-to-reach areas continue to report severe conditions as a result of limited humanitarian access.** Some 2.98 million people in need were reported to be in hard-to-reach areas – including 419 920 people in besieged areas, the majority of whom are in East Ghouta.
- **Better rains increased wheat and barley yields in 2017 and improved access to agricultural land in some areas.**
- **Herd sizes have stabilized albeit at low levels.** However, widespread malnutrition of livestock, due to inaccessibility of pastures and limited availability of compound fodder, further risks this slight improvement.
- **Markets are gradually recovering from full destruction.** But market prices continue to burden Syrians, as food prices remain very high compared with previous years.

CURRENT SITUATION

Some 6.5 million people are food insecure and a further 4 million are at risk – twice as many as last year – due to asset depletion to maintain food consumption. In total, this comprises more than half of the population who are in need of urgent life-saving agriculture and livelihoods assistance.

Within Syria, 6.3 million people are displaced, while 5.3 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The improved security situation in parts of the country has allowed the return of almost 722 000 people. Yet, the continuing crisis has led to new displacements in northeast Syria (Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates), as well as Hama, Aleppo and Idlib governorates. The deterioration of security, aggravated economic conditions, absence of basic services and the need for better livelihood opportunities have contributed to the world's largest displacement crisis.

Families' ability to cope is strained. Some 50 percent of households have reduced the number of meals per day and more than 30 percent have restricted adults' food consumption to prioritize children. Declining purchasing power, limited employment opportunities, meagre salaries and displacement have further exacerbated the situation. This has contributed to socio-economic hardship and the disruption of livelihoods.

People in besieged and hard-to-reach areas continue to report severe conditions as a result of limited humanitarian access. As of September 2017, 2.98 million people in need were reported to be in hard-to-reach areas – including 419 920 people in besieged areas, the majority of whom are in eastern Ghouta. The suspension of commercial access in eastern Ghouta in September resulted in a 50 percent increase in the standard food basket cost compared with the previous month. Access constraints have a significant impact on the availability of food and other basic items as well as high market prices.

CHALLENGES FACING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Better rains increased wheat and barley yields in 2017 and improved access to agricultural land in some areas. According to the July 2017 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), wheat production was estimated at 1.8 million tonnes – 12 percent more than last year's record but still more than 50 percent less than the pre-crisis 10-year average, as a result of high costs, lack of inputs and the impact of the crisis on infrastructure (e.g. irrigation).

Herd sizes have stabilized albeit at low levels. As a result of the high precipitation level, pasture quantity and quality improved in 2017 compared with last year. Due to restricted access to traditional grazing areas, pasture recovery was

slow because of high livestock densities in localised areas, increasing fodder prices. Early signs of cattle emaciation were witnessed in Idleb, while varied types of diseases affecting sheep and goats were reported in Rural Damascus, mainly due to the shortage and high costs of vaccines. Widespread malnutrition of livestock, due to inaccessibility of pastures and limited availability of compound fodder, have worsened the impact of these infections.

Improved security within the country and reopening of some supply routes led to the slow recovery of trade and functioning urban markets. Eastern Aleppo markets' are gradually recovering from full destruction. But market prices continue to burden Syrians as food prices remain very high compared with previous years. Access improvement and market functionality has slightly improved livelihood opportunities in the formal and informal sectors. Casual labourers and pastoralists have also reported improvement in their purchasing power since the end of last year.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2017 RESPONSE



In 2017, FAO has reached more than **616 734 people (102 789 households)**, through:



Vegetable production

10 326 people received high-quality tomato seeds in Tartous Governorate for greenhouse tomato production. This will allow each household to produce 6 tonnes of tomatoes and generate income.



Backyard food production

2 400 farmers received 400 vegetable kits, including seeds, in Ariha district of Idleb Governorate to produce food to eat and sell.



Income generation

125 rural households benefited from income-generating activities.



Poultry production

2 700 people received 45 hens, five roosters and 200 kg of feed to produce eggs for consumption and sale.

2017 PRIORITIES



Sustainable management of natural resources

integrated management of land and water resources • protection of genetic material • provision of alternative sources of energy



Support staple food production

wheat, barley and pulse seed • training on improved cropping methods • rehabilitate damaged irrigation infrastructure • technical training • improve the capacity of technicians and seed producers



Increase household nutrition and income

egg-laying hens • vegetable kits • poultry and rabbit distributions • conditional cash transfers • vouchers • technical training



Protect and boost livestock assets

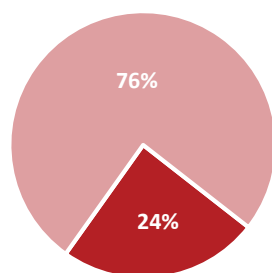
animal feed • livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns and inputs • veterinary capacity • animal restocking • capacity development



Improve coordination and quality of response

coordination • drought early warning • needs assessment, monitoring • planning and strategy development • data collection, analysis and reporting • capacity building

FUNDING



■ Funding to-date:
USD 29 million

■ Funding gap:
USD 90.4 million

Donors: European Union, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America, UN OCHA.

FAO requires

USD 119.4 million

To assist

3.36 million people

COORDINATION

FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform to set up a national agriculture sector coordination mechanism. The mechanism – supported by the seven Technical Working Groups on the sub-sectors of agriculture – aims to improve information flow among all concerned actors, while leading to more comprehensive planning and reduction of duplication of efforts.

CONTACT

Adam Yao | FAO Representative a.i., in Syria | Damascus, Syria | adam.yao@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience | Rome, Italy | TCE-Director@fao.org